

# ARKANSAS CATFISH REPORT



ARKANSAS  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

Released: January 7, 2005

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110  
Little Rock, AR 72211-3543  
(501) 228-9926  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar>

This report contains the results from the Catfish Growers Survey conducted during the first half of January 2005. All known active Arkansas catfish producers were contacted, and provided January 1 inventory and acreage data, and sales data for the previous year. These estimates are also posted on our home page at the Internet address above, and more detailed national report at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire and/or to the interview for the survey.

## FOODSIZE CATFISH INVENTORY DOWN 16 PERCENT

ARKANSAS catfish producers had 61.9 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2005, down 16 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize totaled 2.0 million, up 32 percent; medium foodsize decreased 15 percent to 19.3 million, while small foodsize, at 40.6 million, was down 18 percent from January 1, 2004.

Arkansas catfish growers had **sales** of \$66.6 million during 2004, up 13 percent from 2003. As of January 1, 2005, the **water surface acres** being used for catfish production totaled 31,500 acres, down 7 percent from a year earlier. The **number of operations** decreased to 153 from the 161 in January 1, 2004.

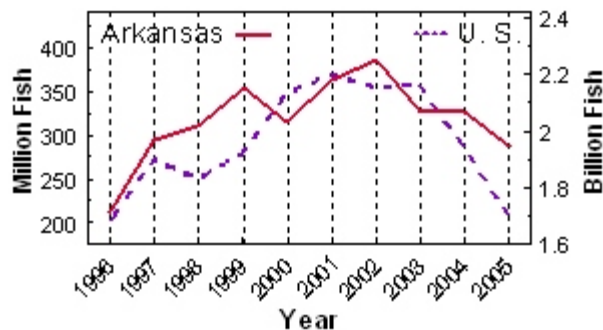
### Arkansas Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, January 1, 2004-2005

Type/Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight per Fish	
	2004	2005	% Chg.	2004	2005	% Chg.	2004	2005
	<i>1,000</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	
Broodfish	125	110	-12	600	540	-10	4.8	4.9
Foodsize Total	73,440	61,930	-16	97,600	83,730	-14	-	-
Large	1,540	2,030	+32	5,300	7,030	+33	3.4	3.5
Medium	22,600	19,300	-15	43,700	35,600	-19	1.9	1.8
Small	49,300	40,600	-18	48,600	41,100	-15	1.0	1.0
Stockers Total	132,600	95,400	-28	32,550	21,550	-34	<i>Pounds per 1,000 Fish</i>	
Large	62,600	39,200	-37	25,200	15,400	-39	-	-
Small	70,000	56,200	-20	7,350	6,150	-16	403	393
Fingerlings	121,000	131,000	+8	3,100	3,500	+13	105.0	109.4
							25.6	26.7

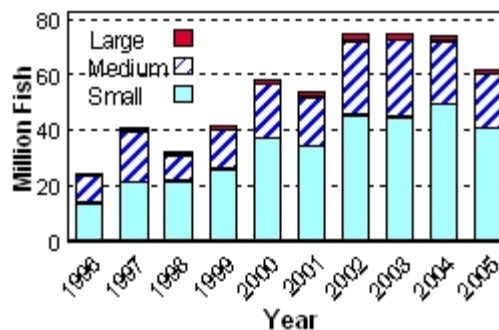
### Definitions Used for Catfish Production

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4-6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: Over 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: Over ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: Over 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: Over 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Fingerlings: 60 lbs. and less per 1,000 fish.

Catfish Inventory, Arkansas and U. S.  
January 1, 1996-2005



Arkansas Foodsize Catfish Inventory  
by Size, January 1, 1996-2005



## 2004 CATFISH VALUE OF TOTAL SALES UP 13 PERCENT

### Arkansas Catfish Sales by Size Category, 2003-2004 <sup>1</sup>

Size Category	Number of Fish		Live Weight Sold				Average price per Pound		Total Sales	
			Average per Fish		Total					
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2004	2004
Foodsize	1,000		Pounds		1,000 Pounds		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
	59,400	58,000	1.7	1.8	99,700	103,000	0.56	0.62	55,832	63,860
Fingerlings	60,400	60,700	Pounds per 1,000		1,050	1,000	1.60	1.84	1,680	1,840
Total	*119,800	*118,700	-	-	*100,750	*104,000	*0.57	*0.63	**59,047	**66,618

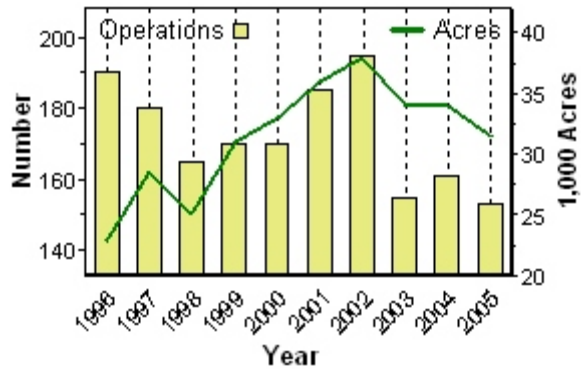
<sup>1</sup> Broodfish and stocker data not published. \* Broodfish and stockers not included. \*\* Total sales include broodfish and stockers.

### Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres, January 1, 2004-2005

Item	Unit	ARKANSAS			UNITED STATES		
		2004	2005	% Chg.	2004	2005	% Chg.
<b>Catfish Operations, Jan. 1</b>	<i>Number</i>	161	153	-5	1,147	1,158	+1
<b>Water Surface Acres Used for Catfish Production <sup>1</sup></b>	<i>Acres</i>	34,000	31,500	-7	177,790	173,590	-2
<b>For Foodsize</b>	<i>Acres</i>	29,000	27,400	-7	148,310	145,055	-2
<b>For Fingerlings</b>	<i>Acres</i>	4,200	3,300	-21	23,060	21,495	-7
<b>For Broodfish</b>	<i>Acres</i>	550	550	0	3,695	3,925	+6

<sup>1</sup> During January 1 to June 30. Current year data for intended utilization.

#### Catfish Operations and Water Acres Arkansas, January 1, 1996-2005



#### Foodsize Catfish Value of Sales and Weight Sold Arkansas, 1995-2004

